



Now that you have returned from the McMichael Canadian Art Collection here are some activities to try out with your class. These activities will help your students apply the knowledge they have gained at the McMichael to various subjects they study in school. Choose from the activities outlined below to enrich the McMichael experience.



- **Story Starters:** Have students choose one story starter as well as reproduction of a Group of Seven image. They will write a short story based on the chosen artwork and the first sentence will begin the story.

Suggestions of Group of Seven images:

1. Lawren Harris (1885-1970), *Snow Fantasy*, c.1917, oil on canvas, 71x110.1cm, gift of Keith and Edith MacIver, 1966.16.88.
2. Arthur Lismer (1885-1969), *Bright Land*, 1938, oil on canvas, 81.1x101.5cm, gift of Colonel R.S. McLaughlin, 1968.7.9
3. A.Y. Jackson (1882-1974), *Bent Pine*, 1948, oil on canvas, 81.3x102cm, gift of Mrs. N.D. Young, 1971.6

You can search our database <http://www.mcmichael-artdb.com/> for these and other images from our collection.

## Story Starters:

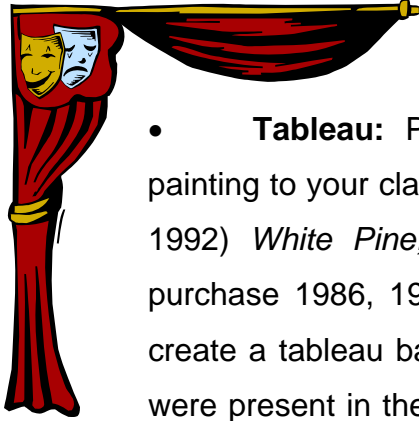
1. It was a cold and windy morning when, all of a sudden, I heard a loud crash. I turned to my left and saw...
2. The boy and his dog were swimming in a beautiful blue lake when he heard his dad call out from the shore to tell him...
3. The girls stopped cold in their tracks. They couldn't believe it. Standing right in front of them was a huge...

- **Tour Guide in Training:** Ask students to reflect on their favourite piece of art they saw at the McMichael. Have them create a finished image (painting, drawing, sketch; it's up to you) of this art work. When completed, students will present their work to the class as if they are the tour guide or docent, ("a lecturer or tour guide, as in a museum"). Students can speak about their image in terms of elements of art, a description of the piece, an interpretation (how does the image make you feel) and a final evaluation (was the image successful). The students should ask the class questions to help with the discussion. For example, what colours do you see in this work? What kind of lines do you see? What is in the foreground, middle ground, and background?



- **The McMichael Experience:** Ask the students to reflect on their favourite part of their visit to the McMichael and draw an image, write a story, create a poem or do a collage, etc. to represent it. If you would like to expand on this activity, once each student has completed their reflection, combine the images, poems, collages, etc. and create a quilt or a mural depicting the overall McMichael Experience.





- **Tableau:** Present an image of a Group of Seven landscape painting to your class, or use the one suggested here: A.J .Casson (1898-1992) *White Pine*, 1948, tempera over graphite paper, 27.1x33.5cm, purchase 1986, 1986.16. Divide the class into groups and ask them to create a tableau based on what they think would be happening if people were present in the landscape. You can search for this painting or others like it through our database, <http://www.mcmichael-artdb.com>.
- **Soundscape:** Present an image of a Group of Seven painting and ask the students to create a soundscape of what they would hear in the landscape. This should be done as a group project.



- **All Together Now:** This activity combines many of the others already listed, creating a cumulative approach to learning. Divide your students into groups and assign each group a story starter, a painting, a tableau, and a soundscape. Two of the students use the story starter to write a short story. Some of the students in the group will create a landscape painting depicting where the story takes place. Others will create a tableau illustrating a scene from the story and the remainder will create a soundscape demonstrating what can be heard. Each group will present their work to the class. This activity can be adapted for the



whole class. The class would be divided into groups and one group writes the story, one group designs the painting, etc. Each group will present their work to the class when completed.

- **Art and the Environment:** Research how members of the Group of Seven and their contemporaries, like Tom Thomson, were concerned with protecting the environment. Have students choose an area of focus to research:

1. The Group of Seven and their travels across Canada.

Suggested painting to refer to: Lawren Harris (1885-1970), *Icebergs, Davis Strait*, 1930, oil on canvas, 121.9 x 152.4cm, gift of Mr. and Mrs. H. Spencer, 1971.17

2. The Group of Seven and Tom Thomson's interest in Algonquin Park.

Suggested painting to refer to: Tom Thomson (1877-1917), *Burned over Land*, 1916, oil on wood panel, 21 x 26.7cm, Gift of the Founders, Robert and Signe McMichael, 1966.16.66

3. The Group of Seven and Tom Thomson's paintings of areas affected by industry such as logging and mining.

Suggested painting to refer to: Franklin Carmichael (1890-1945), *A Northern Silver Mine*, 1930, oil on canvas, 101.5 x x121cm, Gift of Mrs A.J. Latner, 1971.9

These paintings and others like them can be found by searching our database, <http://www.mcmichael-artdb.com>.

Once the research is done, have students write a journal entry as if they are a member of the Group of Seven or Tom Thomson reflecting on their environmental concerns.

Thank you for joining us at the McMichael. We hope you have enjoyed your visit and that the activities offered enriched your experience at the gallery. We look forward to seeing you again.